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Borough of High Wycombe

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE WORK OF THE

Public Health Services 1962



A. J. MUIR, M.B., B.Hy., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health

R. F. SHAPTER, M.A.P.H.I.

Chief Public Health Inspector

C O N T E N T S

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Chief Public Health Inspector

S T A F F

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

(Also Medical Officer of Health for Marlow Urban District and Wycombe Rural District Councils.

Area and Divisional School Medical Officer, Bucks County Council).

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DEPUTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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Assistant County Medical Officer and School Medical Officer, Bucks County Council).

P. E. DOYLE, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.A., D.P.H.

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

R. F. SHAPTER, M.A.P.H.I., R.S.H. Meat & Other Foods Certificate.

DEPUTY CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

L. S. DICKER, M.A.P.H.I., R.S.H. Meat & Other Foods Certificate.
R.S.H. Smoke Certificate
(Deceased 2.4.62).

W. WOODWARD, M.A.P.H.I., R.S.H. Meat & Other Foods Certificate.
(Promoted 8.5.62).

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS

J. F. LEAH, M.A.P.H.I., R.S.H. Meat & Other Foods Certificate

G. R. HUGHES, M.A.P.H.I., R.S.H. Meat & Other Foods Certificate
R.S.H. Smoke Certificate

D. F. YARROW, M.A.P.H.I., R.S.H. Meat & Other Foods Certificate
R.S.H. Smoke Certificate
(Appointed 23.7.62).

PUBLIC ANALYST

ERIC VOELCKER, A.R.C.S., F.I.C.

CHIEF CLERK

A. G. HALL (Health Centre).

To: THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGH WYCOMBE.

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report on the Public Health Services for the year 1962.

As in previous years the population has grown. In mid 1962 there were estimated to be 52,880 living in the town compared with 51,150 in the previous year. This increase of 1,730 compares with a corresponding increase of 5,000 the previous year, so one can say that the rate of growth has lessened.

The number of births topped the thousand mark for the first time. There were 1,048 births, an increase of 51 on 1961. The proportion of illegitimate births was 6.1%, which was slightly smaller than that of the previous year's 7.2%, but still above the national average of 5.4%.

There were seventeen deaths of children, two more than the previous year when, however, there were fifty-one fewer births. The infantile mortality rate was 16.2 compared with the national rate of 21.4. Ten of the seventeen infant deaths took place in the first week of life and the causes of these are similar to those causing stillbirth, and until research has found a way of preventing these perinatal deaths the limit to reducing the infantile mortality would appear to have been reached. The countries which have attained the lowest infantile mortality rates are the Netherlands and Sweden; with their rates of 15.5 per 1,000 the Wycombe rate of 16.2 compares very favourably.

There was an increase of 56 in the number of deaths there being 491 in all. Of these, diseases of the heart and circulation accounted for 211, or 43%, of the total - the same proportion as in the previous year. As usual, cancer was the next main cause of death and accounted for 98 with lung cancer being responsible for 20, the average number for the last six years being 24. It is well known that tobacco is thought by the Medical

Research Council to be the main cause of lung cancer, yet nothing is done to stop the advertisement of this carcinogenic substance in newspapers, on hoardings and on television, where in seductive tones the merits of particular brands are lauded. What chance do young people have of avoiding the smoking habit in the face of these high powered advertising techniques? Unfortunately, the public shew very little concern about lung cancer deaths. Last year when there were 25 such deaths I read a comment that it did not seem many in view of the size of the population, or words to that effect. If there had been 25 deaths from road accidents, typhoid fever, diphtheria or poliomyelitis that would have been a different matter!

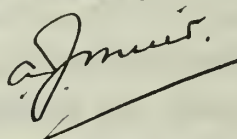
Only 58 notifications of infectious disease were received during the year, including 26 measles, 11 scarlet fever and 15 pulmonary tuberculosis. As regards the latter it is not so long ago that there were twice as many deaths as now we have notifications. Those were the days when it was the "Captain of the Men of Death". The disappearance of the infectious diseases as major causes of death has been a triumph of preventive medicine and it is gratifying to know that the ravages of the most wide spread disease of all - dental caries - if appropriate measures be taken - can be greatly reduced!

On this controversial note I shall end!

I should like to thank the Council, fellow officials and staff for all the help I have been given during the year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,



MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

July, 1963.

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
Municipal Health Centre,
High Wycombe.
July, 1963.

SECTION I

STATISTICS :

Area	7,091 acres
Population (Registrar-General's estimate)	..	52,880
Number of Dwelling Houses	15,336
Rateable Value as at 1.4.62	£1,025,213
Product of a Penny rate (Actual 1961/62)	..	£4,192

RAINFALL :

Pann Mill, Easton Street	.. .. .	27.30 ins.
Widdenton Park, Lane End	.. .. .	26.58 ins.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS :

Live Births :

	<u>Total</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	
Legitimate	984	501	483	Birth Rate per 1,000 of
Illegitimate	64	30	34	the estimated resident
				population ... 19.8
Total Births	1048	531	517	Adjusted rate .. 18.4

<u>Still Births :</u>	17	10	7	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births ... 15.92
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<u>Deaths :</u>	491	270	221	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ... 9.3 Adjusted Rate .. 11.44
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DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES :

	<u>Deaths :</u>	<u>Death Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births</u>
Puerperal Sepsis	Nil	Nil
Other Puerperal Causes	Nil	Nil

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE :

Total number of deaths	.. .. .	17
Death rate of all infants per 1,000 live births	..	16.2
Number of legitimate infant deaths	.. .. .	17
Legitimate death rate per 1,000 legitimate live births	.. .. .	17.27
Number of illegitimate infant deaths	.. .. .	Nil
Illegitimate death rate per 1,000 illegitimate births	.. .. .	-

Neo-natal death rate

Number of deaths of children under 4 weeks (8 males, 2 females)	.. .. .	10
Rate per 1,000 live births	.. .. .	9.5

Early neo-natal death rate

Number of deaths of children under 1 week (8 males, 2 females)	.. .. .	10
Rate per 1,000 live births	.. .. .	9.5

Perinatal Mortality rate

Number of deaths in first week	..	10
Number of still births	.. .. .	17
Total	.. .. .	27
Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births	.. .. .	25.36

DEATHS (ALL AGES) :

Deaths from Cancer	.. .. .	98
Measles	.. .. .	Nil
Whooping Cough	.. .. .	Nil
Gastritis, Enteritis & Diarrhoea	.. .. .	3
Total Tuberculosis Deaths (all cases)	.. .. .	2
Tuberculosis Death Rate (all cases)	.. .. .	0.04
Total Respiratory Tuberculosis deaths	.. .. .	2
Respiratory Tuberculosis Death Rate	.. .. .	0.04
Total Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis Death Rate	.. .. .	Nil
Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis Death Rate	.. .. .	-
Total Respiratory Deaths (excluding Tuberculosis)	..	75
Respiratory Death Rate (excluding Tuberculosis)	..	1.38

INFANTILE MORTALITY :

Seventeen infants under the age of twelve months died during 1962, giving an infantile mortality rate of 16.2 per 1,000 live births.

Ten of the deaths occurred in the first four weeks (all of them in the first week) and the causes are given below :-

Birth Injury	..	..	..	..	..	2
Congenital Volvulus	..	..	..	..	..	1
Prematurity	..	..	..	..	..	7

Of the deaths between 4 weeks and 52 weeks, the following causes were given :-

Broncho pneumonia	..	..	..	..	..	1
Congenital Heart Defect	..	..	..	..	..	2
Convulsive State	..	..	..	..	..	2
Diabetes	..	..	..	..	..	1
Misadventure	..	..	..	..	..	1

The following table gives the infantile mortality rate per 1,000 live births for High Wycombe and England & Wales for the last ten years :-

	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
England & Wales	26.80	25.50	24.90	23.80	23.00
High Wycombe	12.12	17.80	11.50	14.70	26.90

	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962
England & Wales	22.50	22.00	21.70	21.40	21.40
High Wycombe	18.47	12.20	21.00	15.04	16.20

CAUSES OF DEATH :

	<u>1961</u>		<u>1962</u>	
	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>
1 Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	1	-	2	-
2 Other forms of Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-
3 Syphilitic Diseases	-	-	-	-
4 Diphtheria	-	-	-	-
5 Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-
6 Meningococcal Infection	-	1	-	-
7 Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-
8 Measles	-	-	-	-
9 Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	3	-	-	-
10 Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	5	5	6	8
11 Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus	23	2	14	6
12 Malignant Neoplasm, breast	1	11	-	9
13 Malignant Neoplasm, uterus	-	6	-	3
14 Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	22	12	38	14
15 Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	3	1	4	-
16 Diabetes	2	1	1	1
17 Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	13	30	27	30
18 Coronary Disease, Angina	46	28	51	32

		<u>1961</u>		<u>1962</u>	
		<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>
19	Hypertension with Heart Disease	4	4	4	4
20	Other Heart Disease	23	17	19	24
21	Other Circulatory Disease	11	12	6	14
22	Influenza	2	5	-	1
23	Pneumonia	14	21	19	16
24	Bronchitis	23	10	23	12
25	Other Diseases of Respiratory System	3	1	2	2
26	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	5	2	4	3
27	Gastritis, Enteritis, Diarrhoea	1	2	-	3
28	Nephritis and Nephrosis	5	2	4	2
29	Hyperplasia of Prostate	4	-	1	-
30	Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	-	-	-	-
31	Congenital Malformation	3	3	3	2
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	18	14	23	30
33	Motor Vehicle Accidents	3	1	6	2
34	All other Accidents	-	3	8	2
35	Suicide	1	1	5	1
36	Homicide and Operations of War	-	1	-	-
T o t a l s		<u>239</u>	<u>196</u>	<u>270</u>	<u>221</u>

S E C T I O N I I

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

HOSPITALS :

The Borough is in the area administered by the Oxford Regional Hospital Board. The hospitals available to local residents are as under :-

<u>General</u>	War Memorial Hospital, High Wycombe Amersham General Hospital Stoke Mandeville Hospital, Aylesbury
<u>Infectious Diseases</u>	Aylesbury Isolation Hospital
<u>Tuberculosis</u>	Sanatorium, Peppard Common
<u>Maternity</u>	Shrubbery Maternity Home, High Wycombe Amersham Hospital Maternity Unit
<u>Mental</u>	St. John's Hospital, Stone, Aylesbury.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME :

This service is provided by the County Council. The local nursing headquarters are at the Grange, Amersham Hill, and there is a resident Superintendent in charge. Student Midwives are also given instruction in domiciliary midwifery and are attached to the Nurses' Home for a spell whilst doing their "Part II" training at the Shrubbery Maternity Home.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES :

The needs of the district are served by the Ambulance Station in West End Street which caters for an extensive area in and around High Wycombe.

S E C T I O N I I I

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES :

(a) Administered by the Bucks County Council

Child Welfare Centres	Municipal Health Centre Tuesdays and Fridays 2.0 - 4.0 p.m. St. Peter's Church Hall, Micklefield Road, Mondays 2.0 - 4.0 p.m. St. Anne's Church Hall, London Road, Wycombe Marsh 2nd and 4th Tuesdays 2.0 - 4.0 p.m. Methodist Church Hall, Rutland Avenue Tuesdays 2.0 - 4.0 p.m. Sands Village Hall 2nd and 4th Thursdays 2.0 - 4.0 p.m.
Dental Clinic	51 Priory Road, (Nursing and Expectant Mothers and children under school age)
Mothercraft and Relaxation Classes	Municipal Health Centre Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, 2.0 - 4.0 p.m.
Women's Advisory Clinic	Municipal Health Centre Mondays, 1.30 - 3.30 p.m.

(b) Administered by Regional Hospital Board.

Ante-Natal and Post Natal	Out-Patients' Department War Memorial Hospital Tuesdays and Wednesdays 10.0 - 11.0 a.m.
Tuberculosis Clinic	Chest Clinic, War Memorial Hospital. Mondays 12.30 - 3.15 p.m. (Contacts) Tuesdays 9.0 a.m. - 12 noon (New Cases) Fridays 9.0 a.m. - 12 noon (Old Cases)
Venereal Diseases Clinic	War Memorial Hospital Wednesdays and Fridays 2.0 - 6.30 p.m. (New patients 3.30 - 5.30 p.m. Dr. Korn in attendance 4.30 - 6.30 p.m.)

LABORATORY SERVICES :

Facilities are provided by the Public Health Laboratory Service at Oxford.

S E C T I O N I V

PREVALANCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

(a) Notifiable Diseases

The Table on the following page gives the number of cases notified during the year.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES TABLE FOR 1962

Disease	Notified Cases	Under 1	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-9	10-14	15-24	25 & over	Age Unknown
Meningococcal Meningitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	11	-	1	1	1	-	6	1	1	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cerebro-spinal Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Krysiplas	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Encephalitis :	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(a) Infectious	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Post Infective	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis :	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(a) Paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Non-paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	26	-	3	-	4	1	10	3	3	2	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	15	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	13	-
Other forms of Tuberculosis	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	58	1	4	1	5	2	17	4	6	18	-

(b) Immunisation against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus.

During the year the timing of the various immunisation procedures was altered. Oral vaccine against poliomyelitis was given at six months and diphtheria immunisation was correspondingly delayed.

In 1962 391 children were immunised against diphtheria and 911 had reinforcing doses.

240 children were immunised against whooping cough and 47 against tetanus.

These are substantial reductions on the previous year but are explained by the alteration of the immunisation schedule - the figures for succeeding years should be up to normal.

(c) Vaccination against Smallpox.

2,514 primary vaccinations and 516 re-vaccinations were performed, an increase of 1,743 and 438 respectively. This is explained solely by the small outbreaks of smallpox in the country in the early part of the year.

In the town there is a large number of coloured immigrants and as the original infection derived from Pakistan inhabitants had only to pass a coloured person on the street, or to stand beside one in a shop, to feel in mortal peril of contracting the disease!

There should be a substantial drop in the numbers being vaccinated in the current year as infants are now vaccinated in their second year of life instead of the first as hitherto.

(d) B.C.G. Vaccination (Tuberculosis)

As in previous years 13 year old children attending schools - maintained and independent - in the district were offered vaccination against tuberculosis. In the Wycombe Divisional Executive Area 1,710 pupils were tuberculin tested. Of these 145 were found positive - a percentage of 9.4. The percentages positive in previous years are below:

1958	-	19.7%	+ve
1959	-	14.2%	+ve
1960	-	8.0%	+ve
1961	-	9.0%	+ve

The negative reactors were vaccinated.

This measure is proving to be of great value in the prevention of tuberculosis and so far the incidence of the disease in the vaccinated is minute.

(e) Vaccination against Poliomyelitis.

The usual time for giving vaccine is at the age of six months. Three doses of oral vaccine are given at four weekly intervals and this is followed up at school entry with a boosting dose. Supplies of vaccine have been plentiful during the year and the parents have been eager to avail themselves of the opportunity of having their children protected. It is noteworthy that in 1962 the number of notifications of poliomyelitis in England and Wales was the smallest for about fifty years.

(f) Tuberculosis.

In 1962 there were fifteen cases of pulmonary tuberculosis notified - four more than in the previous year. Two cases of non pulmonary disease were also notified. Of the fifteen pulmonary five were in respect of Pakistanis - a ratio out of proportion to their numbers in the community.

Only two deaths from tuberculosis occurred - one more than last year - and this can be considered satisfactory by any standard. Indeed, over the past decade, the elimination of tuberculosis as a major cause of death has been a prominent feature of the vital statistics.

(g) Isolation Hospitals.

The few cases requiring treatment are accommodated at Aylesbury, Maidenhead or Reading Hospitals.

S E C T I O N V

TUBERCULOSIS

The Tuberculosis Service is administered by the Regional Hospital Board.

The Tables on the following pages give, at a glance, the position regarding Tuberculosis in High Wycombe during 1962.

TABLE I
TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER

	RESPIRATORY			NON RESPIRATORY			GRAND TOTAL
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	
No. on Register on 1st January, 1962	171	113	284	25	15	40	324
No. first notified during 1962	11	4	15	-	2	2	17
No. of cases entered in Register other than by notification	1	1	2	1	-	1	3
No. removed from Register during 1962							
(a) died	4	1	5	-	-	-	5
(b) removed from district ..	12	3	15	-	-	-	15
(c) de-notified ..	17	9	26	1	-	1	27
No. remaining on Register on 31st December, 1962.	150	105	255	25	17	42	297

TABLE II
DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS

Year	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962
Deaths	6	5	2	3	5	9	6	4	1	2

TABLE I I I
AGE-GROUP OF NEW CASES AND DEATHS

Age Group	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1-5	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5-10	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
10-15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15-20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20-25	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25-35	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
35-45	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45-55	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
55-65	3	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
65 and over	-	2	-	-	3	-	-	-
Totals	11	4	-	2	4	1	-	-

The above Table gives in full details and number of new cases and the number of deaths of persons on the Register (either from Tuberculosis or other cause) notified during 1962.

SECTION VI

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 : SECTION 47

No formal action required.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the year 1962

To the Mayor, Aldermen and
Councillors of the Borough of High Wycombe

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my report on the work of the Public Health Inspectors Department for the year 1962.

The following pages set out the details of the work with which the Department deals, and true to the words of Alfred Lord Tennyson it appears that "the old order changeth yielding place to new" as the years go by. The general matters of environmental hygiene, general sanitation and infectious diseases appear to be insignificant in the report, but the inspection of food and the control of its quality and labelling become progressively more involved, as also does the work with regard to Clean Air. This changing of importance on one's duties is a natural outcome of public health work as otherwise it would be an utter and complete failure. Where legislation and ultimate action thereunder has had its effect there remains only a "watching brief" in certain aspects, and to advance one must tackle new fields and new ventures - the continued vigilance is nevertheless important. Before 1963 is ended I have no doubt that we shall be working on legislation concerning the health and welfare of workers in shops, offices and similar places - an application of health legislation which is so badly required.

To-day, when so many delightful new names and phrases are substituted for familiar and already apt descriptions, we hear much of "consumer protection" as if it were something entirely new, whereas it is merely an extension of a service which has existed for many years. Are not the testing of water and milk supplies, and the sampling of foods for quality or adulteration carried out for the protection of the consumer? The quality and cleanliness of upholstery, filling materials, the guarding of electric fires, and the marking of foods under the Merchandise Marks Act, all administered by this Department, are all matters of consumer protection. The extension into a channel where the

main concern is not health but the "pocket" is certainly a right move, but should not the Food & Drugs Act be extended to the semi-health or medical products so that claims made for hair tonics, face creams, hand lotions, toilet soaps, toothpastes, sun lotions and many other articles of this nature might be controlled. Perhaps if the ingredients had to be stated on the package, as in the case of most pre-packed foods, it would lead to surprising results.

Referring very briefly to the pages which follow, I would draw attention to the number of inspections made and visits paid in respect of houses let in lodgings. The procedure required under the 1961 Act has been helpful in controlling further the occupation of houses let in lodgings, but the implementation procedure is rather cumbersome. Perhaps as further experience is gained in this direction an amendment to the procedure may be possible to make the administration simpler, yet not to encroach further upon the necessary privacy and privileges which are man's right - even in houses let out in multiple occupation.

Figures with regard to meat inspection are interesting, particularly to those engaged in public health work, and although I have referred to it later in my report I make no apology for again drawing attention to the fact that this is the first year in reporting on meat inspection that it has been possible to report an absolute lack of Tuberculosis in cattle slaughtered within the Borough.

In thinking of the past year one is not able to forget the death of the Deputy Chief Inspector, Mr. L.S. Dicker, whose loss was felt by colleagues throughout the Municipal Offices. This was a sad loss to the Department, but one's work has to continue and Mr. W.Woodward, who was promoted to fill the vacant post, has proved himself most worthy of his appointment.

Finally, I must thank Dr.Muir, the Medical Officer, for his help and co-operation in the working of the Department, other colleagues whose assistance has been sought, and my staff who have worked so well during the past year.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies & Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

R.F.SHAPTER,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

The following Acts are wholly or partly administered by the Department:-

Public Health Acts, 1875 - 1961.

Housing Acts, 1930 - 1961. (Unhealthy Areas, Unfit Houses, demolition, repair etc.)

Food & Drugs Act, 1955.

Caravan Sites & Control of Development Act, 1960.

Clean Air Act, 1956.

Agriculture (Safety, Health & Welfare Provisions) Act, 1956.

Buckinghamshire County Council Act, 1957 (Sections 50, 51 and 52.)

Chepping Wycombe Corporation Act, 1927. Part VII and Sections 101, 102, 104, 105 and 106.

Explosives Acts, 1875 - 1923.

Fabrics (Misdescription) Act, 1913 - Regulations 1959.

Factories Act, 1937 and 1961.

Heating Appliances (Fireguards) Act, 1952.

High Wycombe Corporation Act, 1946. Part V.

Merchandise Marks Act, 1926.

National Assistance Act, 1948. Sections 47 and 50.

Noise Abatement Act, 1960.

Pet Animals Act, 1951.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

Rag Flock & Other Filling Materials Act, 1951.

Rent Act, 1957.

Shops Act, 1950.

Slaughter of Animals Acts, 1954 - 1958.

Slaughterhouses Act, 1958.

Oil Burners (Standards) Act, 1960.

PUBLIC HEALTH (GENERAL)

General matters concerning public health and the prevention of disease are included in this section.

318 complaints were received and dealt with during the year. These are classified as follows:-

Accumulations and rubbish	20
Animals kept as to be a nuisance	5
Caravans	4
Clean Air	30
Drainage	60
Dust and obnoxious smells	30
Food and food hygiene	39
Houses let in lodgings	12
Insect Pests	33
Noise	18
Premises in such a state as to be a nuisance	<u>67</u>
	<u>318</u>

72 informal notices were served and 7 statutory notices.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES :

Number of cases visited.....	8
Rooms disinfected.....	1
Library Books disinfected..	127

DISINFESTATION :

Eradication of vermin

Number of Council houses treated	1
Number of private houses treated	2

DRAINS :

Obstructed drains cleared during 1962 101

WATER SUPPLY

Public Supply

Samples of water taken from both the public supply and the untreated water at the Wells controlled by the Bucks Water Board continued to be satisfactory.

Twenty-two samples from the public water supply and one sample from a private well were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory at Oxford for bacteriological examination and these were all satisfactory.

Three samples of untreated water from supply wells were submitted for chemical and bacteriological examination to the Counties Public Health Laboratories, and these showed the water to be of good quality.

Municipal Swimming Pool

Twenty samples taken from the Swimming Pool during the year were submitted for bacteriological examination and all were found to be satisfactory.

EXAMINATION OF PLANS

The lists of plans submitted to the Public Works and Town Planning Committee for Planning and Byelaw approval were perused and the plans examined where they affect properties over which this Department may have some control (i.e. by way of the Food & Drugs Act, Factories Act, Shops Act, Clean Air Act etc.) During the year 216 plans were examined in this way and action was taken on 46. The provision of additional ventilation in new shop fronts was one matter which required close watching, and other matters included additional height to industrial chimneys, and intervening ventilation between factory toilets and work-rooms.

S U P E R V I S I O N O F F O O D S U P P L I E S

(a) MILK SUPPLY

Registration

There are forty-six registered distributors of milk within the Borough, such registrations including retail shops.

There is one registered dairy within the Borough - a "dairy" being a place (excluding farms) where milk otherwise than in a closed container is handled prior to distribution to the public.

Licensed Premises

The following Licences were issued in 1962:

Dealer's (Pre-packed Milk) in respect of

(a) Pasteurised	7
(b) Sterilised	1
(c) Tuberculin Tested	2

The total number of Licences now held is 99.

Bacteriological Sampling

277 samples of milk were taken for bacteriological examination and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory at Oxford.

Details are as follows:-

	<u>No. of Samples submitted</u>	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatis- factory</u>
Pasteurised	113	107	6
T.T. Pasteurised	156	147	9
Sterilised	8	8	-
	<u>277</u>	<u>262</u>	<u>15</u>

The following table sets out details of the unsatisfactory samples, from which it will be noticed that there were several failures, particularly in respect of the Methylene blue test, concerning one producer - this producer was the same one as reported on in 1961 in respect

of failures during that year. At first the producer was of the opinion that the retailer was at fault in selling stale milk, but when a change of sampling to another retailer also showed failures in the Methylene blue test the producer investigated further and it was ultimately found that the water softening plant was the cause of the trouble. It will be noted that the last failure occurred in August and after that time samples proved satisfactory.

The failures in respect of milk from the other producers cannot be considered of great importance, as they were a very small percentage of the number taken.

MILK FAILURES, 1962

<u>Date</u>	<u>Producer</u>	<u>Sample</u>	<u>Reason unsatisfactory</u>
4.4.62.	A	T.T.Past.	Failed phosphatase.
24.4.62.	B	T.T.Past.	Methylene blue.
24.4.62.	C	Past.	Methylene blue.
24.4.62.	C	T.T.Past.	Methylene blue.
24.4.62.	A	Past.	Methylene blue, and failed phosphatase.
19.6.62.	A	T.T.Past.	Methylene blue.
19.6.62.	A	Past.	Methylene blue.
22.6.62.	A	Past.	Methylene blue.
22.6.62.	A	T.T.Past.	Methylene blue.
22.6.62.	A	T.T.Past.	Methylene blue.
24.7.62.	A	Past.	Methylene blue, and failed phosphatase.
24.7.62.	A	T.T.Past.	Methylene blue.
22.8.62.	D	Past.	Methylene blue.
22.8.62.	A	T.T.Past.	Methylene blue.
2.10.62.	C	T.T.Past.	Methylene blue.

(b) FOOD SAMPLING :

Analysis by the Public Analyst

The following Table shows results on samples submitted during the year :-

Article	Formal	Informal	Genuine	Not Genuine
Almond Essence	-	1	1	-
Apple Flake	-	1	1	-
Bacon Pudding	-	1	1	-
Beans in Tomato Sauce	-	1	1	-
Beef Steak & Veg.	-	1	1	-
Beef Stew	-	1	1	-
Beer	2	-	2	-
Beverages	-	3	3	-
Brawn	2	-	2	-
Cake Mixture	-	1	1	-
Cheese	1	-	1	-
Cheese Spread	-	3	3	-
Coconut	1	-	1	-
Cooking Oil	1	1	2	-
Cordials	-	3	3	-
Cream	-	1	1	-
Curry	-	1	1	-
Fats	3	6	9	-
Fish	-	2	2	-
Fruit Juice	-	1	1	-
Fruit Pies	-	1	1	-
Gravy Mix	-	1	1	-
Hamburgers	1	-	1	-
Ice Cream	3	-	3	-
Ice Cream Mix	-	1	1	-
Jellies	1	1	2	-
Meat (tinned)	-	5	5	-
Milk (fresh)	10	1	11	-
Milk (tinned)	-	1	1	-
Milk Shake Mix	-	1	1	-
Mixed Peel	-	1	1	-
Preserves	-	2	2	-
Processed Peas	-	1	1	-
Salad Cream	-	1	1	-
Sausages	7	1	8	-
Soup	-	7	-	7
Sweets	2	2	4	-
C/F	34	55	82	7

FOOD SAMPLING (Continued)

Article	Formal	Informal	Genuine	Not Genuine
B/F	34	55	82	7
Tomatoes	-	1	1	-
Tomato Juice	-	1	1	-
Tomato Puree	-	1	1	-
Tongue Sausage	-	1	1	-
Wheat Germ Flakes	-	1	1	-
Totals:	34	60	87	7

Unsatisfactory Samples

The seven samples of soup taken informally and reported upon as being unsatisfactory were packets of powdered soup and the Analyst's remark in this case was that they should be described as soup mixes. The question of the labelling of packaged soups is under review by the Food Standards Committee of the Ministry, and no action was taken with regard to the samples. Apart from this particular labelling the soup mixes were reported upon as being genuine as far as the contents were concerned.

(c) FOOD CONDEMNATIONS (OTHER THAN MEAT AT SLAUGHTERHOUSES)

Among numerous articles of food condemned were the following:-

Chickens - 12 fresh and 4 packets frozen
Chocolate - 13 bars
Fish - 13 tins, 26 packets frozen and 7 stone
Fruit - 359 tins
Ham - 115½ lbs.
Meat - 114 tins and 879¾ lbs.
Meat Savouries - 27 packets frozen
Milk - 33 tins
Mousse - 8 packets
Offal - 93 lbs.
Sauces - 11 packets frozen
Stews - 5 tins
Soup - 9 tins
Tomatoes - 61 tins
Vegetables - 40 tins and 8 packets frozen
Vegetable Salad - 6 tins

Condemned food is taken to the Corporation's Tip and the destruction of each consignment is supervised by a member of the Department. All tins and packages are broken open before disposal.

(d) LABORATORY TESTING OF MILK

172 samples of milk were tested in the Department's Laboratory for the percentage of fat and solids-not-fat.

The average contents were as follows:-

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Fat</u>	<u>Solids not fat</u>
Channel Island	4.6	9.03
All grades other than Channel Island	3.8	8.6
All grades	3.9	8.74

It will be noted that in all these samples the amount of fat was greatly in excess of that laid down in the standard for milk, i.e. 4% for Channel Island milk and 3% for all other grades of milk. The solids-not-fat standard is 8.5% and whereas the content of the Channel Island milk was well above this standard the other grades of milk were only just above the minimum. More samples were taken of milk delivered to the retail consumer this year but over 90 samples were taken from churns delivered to the dairy at which the milk is pasteurised. Of these samples only one Channel Island milk failed to pass the test and this was only in respect of the solids-not-fat content. Thirteen samples of all other grades of milk failed in the same test. The content was only slightly below the minimum and the samples were satisfactory as far as fat content was concerned. It will be appreciated that the samples taken at any one time cover only a small quantity of the bulk supply and the final bulk sample of milk as sold to the consumer would be satisfactory. Of samples analysed as supplied to the consumers only three failed to pass the test, and again this was in the solids-not-fat content. In all cases of failure following up samples were taken and were satisfactory.

If these results are taken together with the results of bacteriological sampling which appear elsewhere in my report one can see that generally speaking the standard of milk supplied to the retailer, both as far as qualitative standard and bacteriological standard are concerned, was very good indeed and there need be no fear whatsoever of the quality of this very important food product.

(e) ICE CREAM

Eleven new registrations were made for the storage of ice-cream and the sale of ice-cream. There remain now 162 registered premises, some premises having been deleted from the Register by reason of their demolition or definite change of use. Four registrations relate to the manufacture of ice-cream, but only two actually manufactured ice-cream during 1962, complete cold mix powders being used in both cases.

Fifty-nine samples were submitted for bacteriological examination, and the results were as follows:-

Grade I	=	53 samples
Grade II	=	1 sample
Grade III	=	3 samples
Grade IV	=	2 samples

It will be noted that this year more samples were in Grade I but unfortunately two samples came into Grade IV. As well as those in Grade III, one of those placed in Grade IV was from the same manufacturer/retailer, and made from a complete cold mix. By the efforts of the Inspectors, however, the final samples taken during the year brought this ice-cream to Grade I. The mix itself was not responsible. The other sample in Grade IV was no doubt due to the lack of cleansing of the serving instruments, and after advice being given following up samples showed the sample to be again in Grade I.

As I have remarked in reports before, the placing of a sample into Grade IV does not mean that the ice-cream is dangerous to eat, but this grading is a way of showing whether the hygiene in production and serving is of a good standard or not. The fact that 54 samples out of a total of 59 were in Grades I and II is satisfactory, especially if it is borne in mind that failures concerned relatively small amounts of ice-cream.

(f) OTHER REGISTERED PREMISES

There are forty-seven other registered food preparing premises within the Borough, mainly for fried fish and sausage manufacturing. No established bacteriological sampling is in force for the products prepared at these establishments.

(g) FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS, 1955-1960.

Inspections and re-inspections of premises relative to these Regulations were carried out during the year. The attention of occupiers was drawn to various provisions by written notice as follows:-

Lack of hot water supply	1 case
Lack of sinks	1 case
Lack of lighting or ventilation	1 case
Lack of cleanliness	10 cases
Disrepair	5 cases
Other provisions	4 cases

Verbal notice concerning infringements of the Regulations of minor character was given in other cases, written notice being resorted to where definite warning was required. In food shops one would like to see absolute cleanliness as one would find portrayed in all the advertisements for the latest kitchen equipment and kitchen fixtures, but there is a minority who believe that dust and dirt can be tolerated in food premises and yet expect them to comply with Food Hygiene Regulations. One cannot expect the absolute sterile conditions in a food shop as is necessary in a Hospital Operating Theatre, but visible dirt cannot be tolerated. One hesitates to take cases before the Magistrates Court where there is a fall down on one aspect of food hygiene, and chances are given to proprietors to put their house in order, but surely as the Food Hygiene Regulations have been in force for seven years no further warning should be required to anyone engaged in food handling. If complaint is made to the Justices they have only themselves to blame. In clean premises a food handler with dirty habits may cause an outbreak of disease, but this fact is no argument for having dirty premises. Clean premises are more likely to discourage dirty habits - dirty premises to encourage them.

There were no notified cases of food poisoning in the Borough during the year and therefore one may judge from it that food hygiene is generally good - which is true, but I feel that greater pressure must be placed upon people who fail to maintain the required standards.

Many food establishments carry out a code of hygiene far beyond that required by regulation, and due acknowledgment must be made in those cases, although in this report names cannot be mentioned, and it must be the object of everyone to bring all premises to those very desirable conditions. Food hygiene should not be a matter of enforceable regulations but a practice derived from education, training and experience within the trade. If the health of the people is to be maintained and if outbreaks of Typhoid Fever and other intestinal diseases are to be prevented this is a dire necessity.

(h) SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND MEAT INSPECTION

The tables on the following pages give the statistics relative to the work carried out on meat inspection which is an important duty of the Department, carried out by qualified inspectors of meat and other foods.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed and inspected	2,046	515	117	5,028	1,577
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	1	1	1	-	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	435	224	2	103	231
Percentage of the number killed affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	21.2	43.5	1.7	2.	14.6
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	49
Percentage of the number killed affected with Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	3.1
<u>Cysticercosis</u>					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	19	2	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration	19	2	-	-	-
Percentage of the number killed affected with Cysticercosis	.93	.39	-	-	-

TABLE SHOWING CONDEMNED ORGANS OF ANIMALS - I

	Head	Tongues	Lungs	Hearts	Livers	Other Organs	Total
<u>Cattle</u>							
Abscess	1	2	11	-	176	3	193
Actinobacillosis	15	15	-	-	-	-	30
Angioma	-	-	-	-	55	-	55
Cirrhosis	-	-	-	-	12	-	12
Cysticercus Bovis	19	19	6	2	-	1	47
Hydatid Cysts	-	-	2	-	3	-	5
Fatty Degeneration	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
Necrosis	-	-	-	-	2	1	3
Oedema	1	1	-	-	-	-	2
Distomum Hepaticum	-	-	8	-	301	-	309
Pleurisy	-	-	29	-	-	-	29
Pneumonia	-	-	11	-	-	-	11
Inflammation	-	-	3	-	-	1	4
Epicarditis	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Trauma	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Parasites	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
Nephritis	-	-	-	-	-	6	6
Peritonitis	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Haematoma	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
	36	37	70	3	553	16	715
<u>Calves</u>							
Cirrhosis	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Distomum Hepaticum	-	-	-	-	3	-	3
Trauma	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
	-	-	-	-	4	1	5

TABLE SHOWING CONDEMNED ORGANS OF ANIMALS - II

	Head	Tongues	Lungs	Hearts	Livers	Other Organs	Total
<u>Sheep</u>							
Abscess	-	-	5	-	3	1	9
Degeneration	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Distomum Hepaticum	-	-	-	-	5	-	5
Parasites	-	-	7	-	53	-	60
Pneumonia	-	-	26	-	-	-	26
Injury	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
	-	-	38	-	62	2	102
<u>Pigs</u>							
Abscess	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Ascaris	-	-	9	-	25	-	34
Congestion	-	-	15	1	-	-	16
Illbleeding	-	-	9	-	1	-	10
Inflammation	-	-	2	2	2	1	7
Pleurisy	-	-	5	3	2	1	11
Peritonitis	-	-	-	-	1	2	3
Parasites	-	-	-	-	3	-	3
Cirrhosis	-	-	-	-	39	2	41
Pneumonia	-	-	68	1	-	3	72
Tuberculosis	49	49	-	-	-	-	98
Pericarditis	-	-	-	5	-	-	5
Milk Spot	-	-	-	-	14	1	15
Nephritis	-	-	-	-	-	3	3
Hydronephrosis	-	-	-	-	-	5	5
	50	49	108	12	87	18	324

It will be noted that there are few calves slaughtered in the Borough. There is a decline by approximately 1,000 in the number of sheep slaughtered, but, on the other hand, the number of oxen and pigs has increased. As the inspection of oxen and pigs is more involved than that of sheep, reduction of approximately 500 in the total number of animals killed has not affected the time spent on meat inspection - in fact more visits were paid to the Slaughter-houses.

	<u>1960</u>	<u>1961</u>	<u>1962</u>
Oxen	1167	1780	2046
Cows	268	410	515
Calves	102	137	117
Sheep	3659	6054	5028
Pigs	1423	1409	1577
Horses	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>6619</u>	<u>9790</u>	<u>9283</u>

The weight of condemned meat and offal for the year 1962 was :

Beef in carcase	555 lbs.
Beef not in carcase	1101 lbs.
Veal in carcase	60 lbs.
Veal not in carcase	28 lbs.
Mutton in carcase	45 lbs.
Mutton not in carcase	38½ lbs.
Pork in carcase	99 lbs.
Pork not in carcase	398 lbs.
Offal	<u>8677½ lbs.</u>

11002 lbs.

= 4 tons, 18 cwts, 26 lbs.

Meat Inspection

It will be noted from the figures shown in the table of condemnations that no carcase or organ in oxen was condemned as a result of tuberculosis. This is the first year in which I or any of my predecessors have been able to report an absence of this disease. Tuberculosis in oxen has been reducing steadily for many years and it is indeed most gratifying to see that a position such as I am able to report at present has been achieved. This, of course, has not been achieved by the meat inspector (although in a minor way he has helped) but by the work of those engaged in the

veterinary field on tuberculin tested herds and other relative work. This is yet another achievement affecting public health.

Unfortunately the figure shown for pigs shows a rise of tuberculosis, but when it is considered that only heads and tongues have been condemned in these pigs it will be seen that the amount of tuberculosis in pigs has also declined very much over the years. Truly the figure for High Wycombe shows an increase over that for 1961, but it must be remembered that the number of pigs slaughtered in the Borough is a small one and is not proportionate to the number of oxen killed in relation to the amount of pork and pig meat eaten as against the amount of beef eaten. The figure is still very satisfactory and it is to be hoped that the time is not far off when tuberculosis in pigs will also be absent.

Cysticercosis

There is apparently still a tendency for this disease - a parasitic infection - to keep occurring. In fact, a further rise of 19 and a percentage of .93 as against .78 of 1961, and in the case of cows, in which it is not usual, two animals affected and a percentage of .39. The search for this parasitic infection becomes more important year by year.

M E R C H A N D I S E M A R K S A C T S

1 8 7 8 - 1 9 5 3

The labelling of foods under the Merchandise Marks Acts receives due consideration, but observations in this respect are carried out when inspectors are engaged on other aspects of the work, and the visits are not recorded under this heading. Fifteen definite visits solely in relation to this Act were made.

S H O P S A C T 1 9 5 0

The assistant Shops Inspector kept close watch on shops concerning the employment of young persons and forms and notices to be exhibited. A total of 36 notices relating to these matters were served. Hours of closing were also investigated as and when necessary.

W E I G H T S A N D M E A S U R E S

Mr. Dimmock, General Assistant in the Department, gave frequent help to the Weights & Measures Inspector, especially when heavy lifting was required or when coal and coke was weighed after delivery to a customer.

H O U S I N G

(a) HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION

During the year the provisions of the Housing Act 1961 came into force which extended certain provisions with regard to the governing of these houses; revised the control of houses with regard to the facilities in such houses; and gave power to make Management Orders in cases where houses were considered to be in want of proper attention and where they were dirty and in a bad state of repair.

In total 971 visits or inspections were made in respect of houses in multiple occupation. This has naturally taken a considerable amount of time, and inspections were carried out during the evenings as well as during normal working hours.

There is no need to mention the difficulties with regard to such inspections. Language difficulties arise; ability to make people understand is not easy and on occasions I am sure that there is a deliberate obstruction on the part of an occupier to enable the actual truth concerning the occupation to be obtained by a pretence of lack of understanding. It means that to be sure of the facts inspections must be carried out when all or most of the occupants are available, because the mere presence of two double beds in a room is not proof that that room is being slept in by four persons. Suspicion is not sufficient for proof of cases in a Magistrates Court.

During the year fifteen Directions were placed on houses limiting the occupation according to the facilities provided. These Directions have the effect of stabilising the persons in occupation to those actually there at the time of the service of the Direction, but if they change other persons must not be taken in their place unless the number falls below that which is permitted in the Direction. This has the effect of allowing the occupation to be eased by the natural transference of people into other houses or leaving the district and is not so harsh as forcing people to leave in order to reduce the occupation. A notice under Section 90 of the Housing Act, 1957 can be served in addition to a Direction if the house is considered to be overcrowded.

Although only fifteen Directions were served up to the end of the year, the placing of a Direction on a house means considerable administrative work. Apart from the usual inspection to ascertain the facts, reporting the matter to

Committee and Council, the actual owner has to be ascertained by the service of a notice, and a Notice of the Intention to place such a Direction on a house must then be served on that owner and set up in the house itself. Then in some cases it is necessary to serve a Notice of Entry in order to be able to pin up the Notice of Intention and again the Direction itself. The work of placing a Direction on a house is, therefore, involved and lengthy.

Where overcrowding was found in contravention of Section 90 notices, legal proceedings were instituted in six cases and fines amounting to £125 were imposed by the Magistrates with £27-7-2d. in costs.

Also during the year one Management Order was served on a house where it was considered that conditions were such as to want a definite code of management. A Management Order is the severest form of dealing with a house and in this particular case in complying with the Management Order, notice to quit was served on many of the inmates. Work was carried out to clean and improve the decoration of the house and certain repairs were also carried out.

It must also be mentioned that apart from the formal action which was taken during the year, much was done in an informal manner with advice to owners and to tenants alike and the writing of letters where it was considered that only an intimation from the Department was necessary to effect the necessary action.

On the whole I would suggest that there is some improvement in the living accommodation of the houses let in lodgings, but perhaps education and example in our ways of living is the only means of bringing further understanding and improvement into their conditions. To be honest one must admit that many houses not let in lodgings are not up to the standard which we consider to be right for this day and age. The question is not necessarily solved by the service of notices on owners of houses as in some cases it has the effect of sending occupiers from one address to another, and as it is obviously impossible to inspect all the houses at one and the same time then this change of occupancy can continue without establishing all the overcrowding which exists. Eventually, of course, more houses will be provided by the immigrants themselves, but where the number allowed to occupy a house is reduced the income into such house to the owner will be reduced or, more likely, the tenants called upon to pay even higher rents than those paid at present. This may have the effect of either lessening the number of houses now purchased by immigrants,

or cause greater hardship, particularly on families who occupy rooms. Of course some immigrants have now been in this Borough for three or four years, and some families have been established for that period. In matters of housing the country of origin should matter no more than whether a family comes from Scotland, Wales or Ireland, or other counties of England, and re-housing will have to be considered together with others making housing application and in similar circumstances. The eventual answer to the whole problem is additional accommodation in one form or another, whether privately, collectively or by the local authority. Whatever the manner of additional accommodation the control of letting is important in order that the additional housing provided does not again become overcrowded. The Government's plans for registration of houses let in lodgings could be brought forward advantageously as a house which has to be registered could be controlled from the start.

It is not the intention of this report to suggest that all houses let in lodgings are overcrowded or occupied beyond the numbers reasonable for facilities available - many are well kept, clean and reasonably occupied - in fact a credit and perhaps an example to some tenants of the singly occupied dwellinghouse.

(b) CLEARANCE AREAS

The following table will show the work with regard to the Council's programme of Clearance Area work.

During the year there was a decrease in the houses available for re-housing and therefore as the number of families awaiting re-housing was far in excess of the houses becoming available only two areas with a total of 55 houses were declared in 1962 - one area (Queen Street) of 49 houses and the other of 6 houses (Bridge Street No.3)

An inquiry was held into the Queen Street Clearance Area but by the end of the year the result was not known. Bridge Street No. 3 was dealt with by Agreed Purchase.

(c) REPAIR

Forty-two houses were rendered fit as a result of informal action and one as a result of formal action.

(d) STANDARD GRANTS

It is again disappointing to see that there were comparatively few applications for Standard Grants. Thirty applications were received during 1962, mainly from owner/occupiers.

Work was completed on twenty houses during the year. The table below sets out the details with regard to the standard amenities:

	<u>Baths</u>	<u>Food Stores</u>	<u>Hot Water</u>	<u>Wash- Basins</u>	<u>W.Cs.</u>
Applications for	24	17	27	25	18
Completed 1962	16	14	20	16	7
Completed 1962 (Council houses)	-	-	35	35	-

Total amenities applied for, 1962 = 111.

Total amenities installed during 1962 = 143.

(The figures relative to Council houses have been supplied through the courtesy of the Borough Engineer and Surveyor.)

The efforts of owner/occupiers to improve their properties are appreciated, and indeed every encouragement must be given for this, but it is helping little towards the preservation of groups or areas of housing unless the tenanted houses in the same street or area are also repaired and improved.

Whether the failure to take advantage of the grants is from the fear of the amount of work to be carried out in order to repair the house, whether tenants fear a steep rise in rent, or whether it is just general apathy or lack of information is not known. There is no doubt, however, that unless many of these houses capable of being rendered fit and improved by the standard amenities are voluntarily dealt with, then it can be expected that legislation will follow to make this a compulsory practice under Housing Acts. In any case under the Housing Act power is already given to enforce the repair of unfit houses which are considered capable of repair at a reasonable cost, and this must be enforced if houses in the "twilight" areas are to be preserved.

TABLE 1

Clearance Area Programme during 1962, including further action on Areas declared in 1957 to 1962.

Name of Area	Date of Declaration	How Dealt With	Date of Inquiry	Date of Confirmation	No. of Houses	No. of Families	No. of Families Rehoused by Local Authority		No. of Houses Demolished
							1962	Total	
Oxford Road (No.1)	1957	C.P.O.	1958	1958	16 + 3 not unfit	17	nil	17	18
Pennington Row)))					84 + 14 not unfit	100	nil	91	92
Duke Street (No.1)) Richardson Street }	1957	C.P.O.	1958	1958	4	4	nil	2	4
	1958	Part C.P.O. Part C.O. A.P.	1958	1959	124	130	4	113	118
Mill Street (No.1)	1958		-	-	5	4	nil	3	-

Name of Area	Date of Declaration	How Dealt With	Date of Inquiry	Date of Confirmation	No. of Houses	No. of Families	No. of Families Rehoused by Local Authority		No. of Houses Demolished
							1962	Total	
Bridge Street (No.2)	1959	Part C.P.O. Part C.O.	1959	1960	58 + 1 not unfit	51	18	36	-
George Street (No.1)	1959	A.P.	-	-	3	1	-	1	2
Oxford Road (No.2)	1959	C.P.O.	1961	1962	59 + 1 not unfit	58	8	12	-
Baker Street (Nos.1 & 2) & George Street (No.2)	1960	C.P.O.	1960	1961	62 + 8 not unfit	61	24	50	39
Gordon Road (No. 1)	1961	A.P.	-	-	4	4	3	3	-
Gordon Road (No. 2)	1961	A.P.	-	-	3	2	-	-	-
Totteridge Road	1961		-	-	3	3	-	-	-
West Wycombe Road (No. 2)	1961	A.P.	-	-	4	4	1	1	-
Railway Place	1961	C.P.O.	1962	1962	37 + 2 not unfit	41	2	2	-

Name of Area	Date of Declaration	How Dealt With	Date of Inquiry	Date of Confirmation	No. of Houses	No. of Families	No. of Families Rehoused by Local Authority		No. of Houses Demolished
							1962	Total	
Victoria Street	1960	A.P.	-	-	3	3	-	-	-
Bridge Street (No.3)	1962	A.P.	-	-	6	6	-	-	-
Queen Street (No.1)	1962	C.P.O.	1962	-	49	49 + 1 house let in lodgings	-	-	-
				Totals:	524 + 29 not unfit	538 + 1 house let in lodgings	60	331	273
Central Areas Redevelopment	1960/1		1962		49	42	1	1	-

A.P. = Agreed Purchase C.O. = Clearance Order
C.P.O. = Compulsory Purchase Order.

TABLE IIAreas in which action completed before 1962

A R E A	Date of Declar- ation	No. of Families re-housed by Local Authority	No. of Houses demolished
Bridge St. (No. 1)	1957	13	13
Kingsmead Rd. (No. 1)	1957	5	6
Denmark St. (No. 1)	1957	6	6
Abbey Barn Rd. (No. 1)	1957	7	7
Abbey Barn Rd. (No. 2)	1957	4	6
Brook St. (No. 2)	1957	30	41
Abbey Barn Rd. (No. 3)	1957	8	8
Beech Road (No. 1)	1957	5	5
Lily's Walk	-	16	16
Dovehouse Road	1958	14	14
Kingsmead Rd. (No. 2)	1957	6	6
Ship Street	1958	17	19
Ford Street	1958	7	6
Phillips Row	1959	15	20
West Wycombe Rd. (No. 1)	1961	2	2
		155	175

R E N T A C T 1 9 5 7

During the year the only action under this Act was the granting of a Certificate to a Landlord for the cancellation of a Certificate of Disrepair.

C L E A N A I R

(a) Domestic Smoke

The Desborough Avenue Smoke Control Area was confirmed by the Minister in January and became operative on 1st September.

The North Western Smoke Control Area was confirmed by the Minister on the 5th November, the operative date of which is 1st October, 1963. This area comprises 725 acres with 870 dwellings already in occupation. It is, however, contemplated that this area will eventually consist of 2,000 dwellings when building programmes are carried out.

During the year a plan was submitted to the Health Committee and Council for the phasing of the Borough in order that a programme of Smoke Control might be carried out, such programme not linked with new development as previously - the large areas of new development having already been declared.

The plan divides the town so as to form fourteen phases with approximately 1,000 houses in each phase starting from the west of the Borough and proceeding generally towards the east; West Wycombe and the country surrounding it, however, was left for the last phase.

It is hoped that it will not take fourteen years to complete the programme, but convenient units were devised so that there would be equilibrium between council houses and private houses. The rate of progress depends on staff available and the financial implications. The town centre was taken as number 6 in the phasing as, by the time this area was reached, it was considered that much of the work of town development (the plan for which is now being considered by the Minister) would be completed and it would not be necessary to go into long complicated schedules of exemptions which would be required for a short period of time. Whether or not the town centre is taken as a phase at any particular time, the majority of it is commercial property, and because no grants are available for conversion of fireplaces in commercial or industrial premises there is every reason to hope the occupiers of premises in this area will convert their fireplaces without waiting for a Smoke Control Area to be declared. This applies also to all commercial property.

There are now eleven Smoke Control Areas in the Borough

covering 1,221.6 acres and 2,885 houses but as has been pointed out, the number of houses in some of these areas will increase as building develops. The following table gives details of the areas:-

<u>Smoke Control Areas</u>	<u>Houses planned</u>	<u>Houses erected to date</u>	<u>Acreage</u>
Gomm's Wood	122	122	11.75
Deeds Grove	383	383	56.6
New Road No.1	94	94	10.65
New Road No.2)	145	144	8.4
Castlefield No.1)			10.9
Upper Bowerdean	277	201	39.
Hicks Farm	659	265	128.3
Quebec Road	201	201	29.
Plomer Hill	109	109	10.
			(Borough only)
Desborough Avenue	509	493	192.
North Western	1148	870	725.

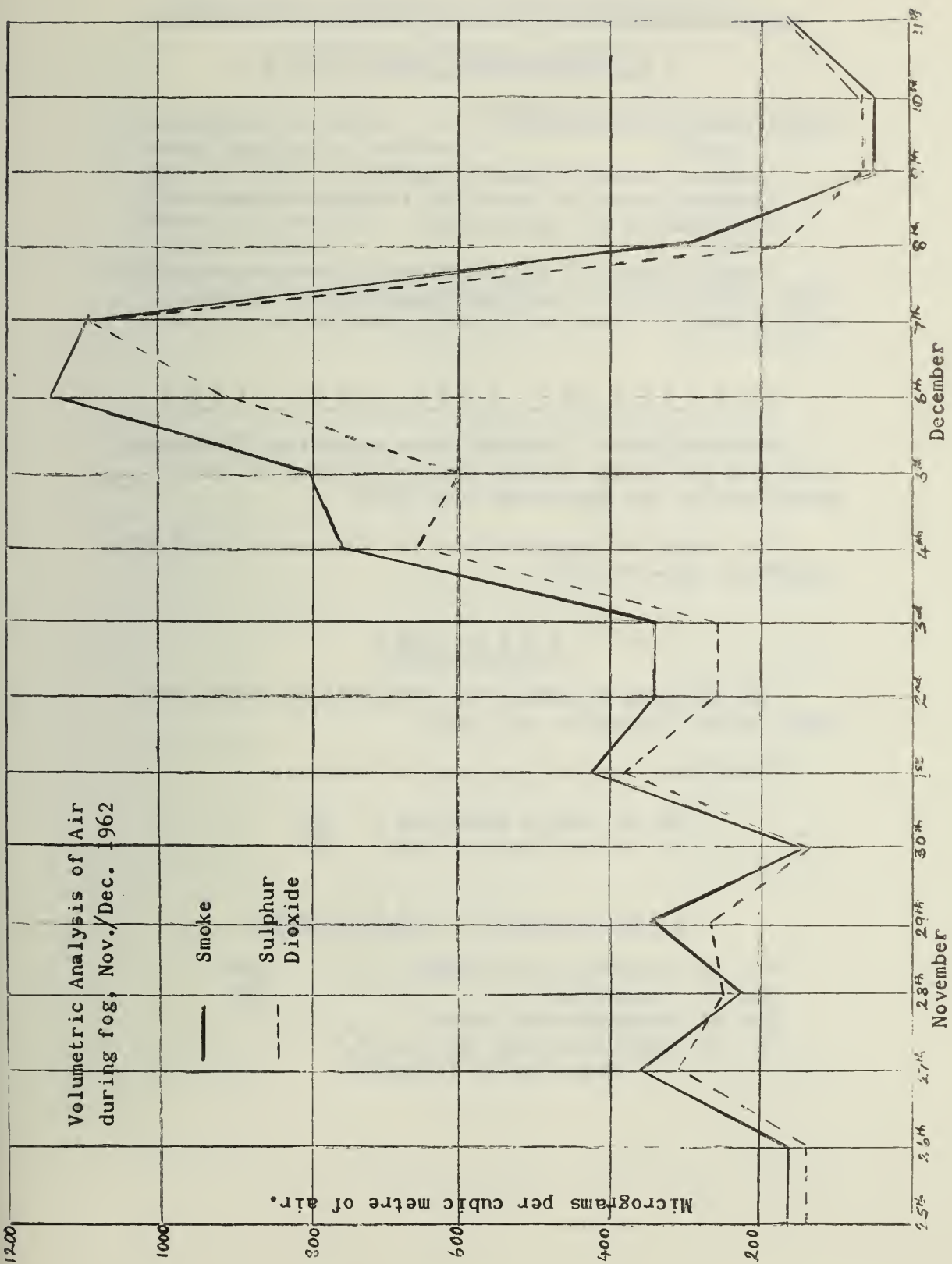
(b) Industrial Smoke

It is regretted that little real progress was made with regard to the further elimination of industrial smoke, and as after the 5th July, 1963 the defence permitted under Section 2 of the Clean Air Act, 1956 will cease to have effect, many industrialists will be in an embarrassing position after that date.

(c) Air Pollution

The amount of smoke and sulphur dioxide in the air at the town centre continued to be measured by the Daily Recording Instrument. The figures obtained by the recordings in this Department were forwarded to the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research for inclusion in the complete atmospheric pollution survey throughout the country.

The graph on page 47 shows the increase of impurities in the air during the November/December fog.



R A G F L O C K A N D O T H E R F I L L I N G

M A T E R I A L S A C T 1 9 5 1

Statistics for the year 1962

Licences issued to manufacture	nil
Licences issued to store Rag Flock for re-sale	5
Total number of registrations	96

Twenty samples of Filling Materials were taken during 1962. These were all informal samples which proved satisfactory.

E X P L O S I V E S A C T S 1 8 7 5 - 1 9 2 3

Registration of premises where explosives (fireworks etc.) are stored was carried out as required by the provisions of the Explosives Act, 1875.

The number of registrations for the period ended 30th September, 1962 was 107.

M O R T U A R Y

The Mortuary Attendant was available on twenty-four hour service throughout the year.

Statistics for the year were as follows:

No. of bodies deposited	- 109
No. of post mortems held	- 100

F A C T O R I E S A C T 1 9 3 7

No. of factories of all types	550
No. of inspections	139
No. of contraventions found	9
No. of complaints received from H.M. Inspector of Factories	2

P R E V E N T I O N O F D A M A G E B Y

P E S T S A C T 1 9 4 9

Agreements in force	11
Total complaints received	399
(Agricultural premises	-)
(Business premises	71)
(Domestic premises	283)
(Other premises	30)
(Complaints not justified	15)
Total visits by Rodent Operator	1164
Total visits by Public Health Inspectors	169

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS 1962

Table showing legal proceedings taken, and results, during 1962:-

Acts, Orders or Regulations under which Proceedings were instituted	Default or Offence	Result
Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960: Regulation 28.	Inadequate supply of hot & cold water on mobile van selling ice-cream.	Fined £5.
Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960. Regulations 26(1), 26(2) and 28.	Unclean condition of mobile van, no name & address displayed & lack of hot water.	Fined £10 for unclean condition, £2 for no name & address, & £10 for lack of hot water = £22.
Housing Act, 1957. Section 90(4)	Overcrowding in house let in lodgings.	Fined £2. Costs £3.3.0d.
Housing Act, 1957. Section 90(4)	Overcrowding in house let in lodgings.	Fined £3. Costs £3.3.0d.
Housing Act, 1957. Section 160.	Obstructing an officer of the Local Authority in carrying out an examination as authorised by Sec. 159 of the Housing Act, 1957.	Fined £3. Costs £3.3.0d.
Housing Act, 1957. Section 90(4)	Overcrowding in house let in lodgings.	Fined £40. Costs £10.11.2d.
Housing Act, 1957. Section 90(4)	Overcrowding in house let in lodgings.	Fined £20.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS 1962

(Continued)

Acts, Orders or Regulations under which Proceedings were instituted	Default or Offence	Result
Housing Act, 1957. Section 90(4), as amended by Sec.20 of the Housing Act, 1961.	Overcrowding in house let in lodgings (two charges)	Fined £15 on each charge = £30. Costs £5.5.0d.
Housing Act, 1957. Section 90(4), as amended by Sec.20 of the Housing Act, 1961.	Overcrowding in house let in lodgings (two charges)	Fined £15 on each charge = £30. Costs £5.5.0d.
Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960: Regulations 26 & 28.	Unclean condition & inadequate water supply on 2 mobile vans selling ice-cream.	Each defendant fined £15 on each of the 2 charges relating to water supply & £10 on each of the 2 charges relating to uncleanliness, making a total of £100. Costs £5.5.0d.
<p>Total fines = £255. Costs = £35.15.2d.</p>		

V I S I T S A N D I N S P E C T I O N S M A D E

Clean Air Act:	Survey	84
	Observations and Visits	225
	Installations	258
Factories Act:	Powered Factories	127
	Non-Powered Factories	3
	Means of Escape	9
Food & Drugs Act & Food Hygiene Regulations:	Bakehouses	77
	Butchers	78
	Fish Shops	20
	Food Condemnation	51
	Grocers & Greengrocers	167
	Ice Cream premises (not including sampling)	18
	Markets	138
	Miscellaneous	116
	Milk shops & Dairies	23
	Registrations, Food Preparers	6
	Ice Cream	5
	Milk	3
	Mobile Vendors	35
	Restaurants, Cafes	169
	Sampling: Food & Drugs	70
	Ice Cream	57
	Milk	259
	Water	34
	Slaughterhouses (Meat Inspection)	777
Housing Acts:	Clearance	304
	Houses Let in Lodgings	971
	Overcrowding	9
	Repairs	40
	Standard Grants	105
	Revisits	75
Merchandise Marks Act:		15
Miscellaneous:		428
Noise Abatement Act:		21
Pet Animals Act:		4
		<hr/>
		C/F
		4,781

V I S I T S A N D I N S P E C T I O N S M A D E

(Continued)

	B/F	4,781
Public Health Act:	Drainage	224
	Dustbins/Refuse	62
	Infectious Diseases	80
	Nuisances	147
	Repairs	76
	Schools	3
	Streams and Watercourses	2
	Swimming Pool	4
	Verminous Premises	34
	Water Supply	1
	Entertainment	14
	Moveable Dwellings	16
	Revisits	309
Explosives:		102
Rag Flock & Other Filling Materials Act:		18
Rats & Mice:	Inspectors' Visits	169
	Rodent Operator's Visits	1,164
Other Pests:		18
Rent Act:		7
Shops Act:		703
		<hr/>
		7,934
		<hr/>

APPENDIX

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 - 1961

The following Tables give the prescribed particulars required under the provisions of Section 128(3) of the Factories Act 1937 with respect to matters under Parts I and VIII of that Act.

PART I OF THE ACT

1 - INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health
(including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspec- tions	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority.	19	3	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	531	136	7	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Out-workers' premises)	28	21	-	-
Totals:	578	160	7	-

2 - Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars	No. of Cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which Prosecutions instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M Inspector	By H.M Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective Drainage of Floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	-	-	-	-	-
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	7	8	-	2	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
Totals:	7	8	-	2	-

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORK

(Sections 110 and 111)

	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of out- workers in Aug. list Section 110(1) (c)	No. of Cases of Default in send- ing list to the Council	No. of Prose- cutions for failure to supply lists.	No. of instan- ces of work in unwhole- some premises	Notices served	Prose- cutions
<u>Wearing Apparel:</u>						
Making etc.	29	-	-	-	-	-
Cleaning and Washing	-	-	-	-	-	-
Furniture and Upholst- ery	31	-	-	-	-	-
Carding etc., of buttons etc.	39	-	-	-	-	-
Total:	99	-	-	-	-	-